

CLASSIFICATION: CONSERVATION OFFICER I

Class Code: 2131-18

Date Established: 12-08-92

Occupational Code: 3-3-2

Date of Last Revision: 4-14-15

Exempt Status: Non-Exempt

BASIC PURPOSE: To contribute to on-going agency goals for the development and maintenance of good wildlife conditions by enforcing state fish and game laws, rules, and regulations.

CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Patrols an assigned geographic area to locate, investigate, apprehend and prosecute violators of laws and rules concerning wildlife, natural resources, off-highway recreational vehicles (OHRV's), criminal offenses and outdoor recreational activities, to include foot patrols in remote areas and patrols via the operation of all-terrain vehicles (ATV's), snowmobiles, watercraft, and other necessary equipment.
- Enforces state hunting and fishing laws, rules, and regulations to ensure public safety and protection of wildlife habitats.
- Makes arrests of violators, procures evidence and appears with parties in proper courts for prosecution. Arrests may include the need to physically restrain and subdue violators using handcuffs and other restraints, to include self-defense.
- Testifies against suspected violators of state hunting and fishing laws, rules, and regulations.
- Speaks before sporting organizations, educational institutions, and interested public and private organizations to advocate for department's mission, goals and objectives to achieve voluntary compliance and enhance agency effectiveness.
- Compiles data relevant to hunting accidents to develop hunter safety programs and accident prevention campaigns.
- Enforces laws, rules and regulations relating to the operation of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) as defined by statute and gives emergency medical treatment when necessary to injured people.
- Supervises and trains Conservation Officer Trainees and Deputy Conservation Officers.
- Assists in Search and Rescue missions to include carrying out injured or deceased individuals, often from remote and/or mountainous locations.

DISTINGUISHING FACTORS:

Skill: Requires skill in applying instructions to accomplish different job functions OR in operating machines for a variety of different purposes.

Knowledge: Requires knowledge of business practices and procedures or technical training in a craft or trade, including working from detailed instructions, to apply knowledge in a variety of practical situations.

Impact: Requires responsibility for contributing to immediate, ongoing agency objectives by facilitating the direct provision of services to the public or other state agencies. Errors at this level result in inaccurate reports or invalid test results and require a significant investment of time and resources to detect.

Supervision: Requires partial supervision of other employees doing work which is related or similar to the supervisor, including assigning job duties, providing training, giving instructions and checking work.

Working Conditions: Requires performing regular job assignments in an extremely disagreeable or dangerous working environment with continuous exposure to an uncontrollable number of hazardous elements, including occupational accidents, injuries, or diseases which result in total disability or death.

Physical Demands: Requires medium to heavy work, including continuous physical exertion such as frequent bending, lifting, or climbing.

Communication: Requires summarizing data, preparing reports, and making recommendations based on findings which contribute to solving problems and achieving work objectives. This level also requires presenting information for use by administrative-level managers in making decisions.

Complexity: Requires a combination of job functions to establish facts, to draw daily operational conclusions, or to solve practical problems. This level also requires providing a variety of alternative solutions where only limited standardization exists.

Independent Action: Requires a range of choice in applying a number of technical or administrative policies under general direction and making routine decisions or in recommending modifications in work procedures for approval by supervisor.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Education: Associate Degree or 60 credit hours from a recognized college or technical institute.

Experience: Satisfactory completion of the one year probationary period as a Conservation Officer Trainee. Two years of full time employment as a certified police officer in a recognized jurisdiction, or two years of experience in the military on a full time active duty with an honorable discharge, may be substituted for up to two years of required formal education.

License/Certification: Must be certified as a full-time law enforcement officer by the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council. Must possess a valid driver's license.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Any Conservation Officer hired on or after January 1, 2001 will, as a condition of employment, participate in and pass no less frequently than every three (3) years the physical performance test administered in accordance with Police Standards and Training Council requirements.
2. Must be willing to work days, nights, weekends and holidays as well as being called to return to work for various Search and Rescue Missions.
3. Must be able to lift a minimum of 50 pounds as well as drag 175 pounds through brush, woods, and dense forest.

RECOMMENDED WORK TRAITS: Knowledge of laws and regulations relating to fish and game. Knowledge of court procedures and legal proceedings. Knowledge of investigative techniques. Ability to obtain and maintain cooperation among allied law enforcement branches and the public. Ability to work with people in determining intentional and non-intentional violations. Ability to prepare reports. Ability to operate various types of vehicles and equipment. Ability to use various types of firearms. Must be willing to maintain appearance appropriate to assigned duties and responsibilities as determined by the agency appointing authority.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT: This class specification is descriptive of general duties and is not intended to list every specific function of this class title.